THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The number of vacancies reserved for ex-servicemen in the calendar year 1992 were 78 in Group 'C' and 131 in Group 'D'. Against these reservations, 34 posts in Group 'C' and 28 posts in Group 'D' were filled up by ex-servicemen.

Vacancies reserved for ex-servicemen are not carried forward and, therefore, the concept of backlog is not applicable. The quota for ex-servicemen was not fully filled up because of non-availability of suitable candidates.

Tourism in Kangra Valley

809. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Kangra valley in Himachal Pradesh has vast potential for development of pilgrimage and adventure tourism;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the valley lacks basic infrastructure for that purpose; and

(c) if so, what overall steps Government propose to take to develop tourism in the valley ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c) Development of tourism infrastructure is primarily the responsibility of the State Government. Financial assistance is extended on specific proposal received from them subject to availability of funds and on inter-se priorities.

Tooldown/Work stoppage in Air India Engineers engine overhaul Department

810. SHRI E. BALANANDAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Air India Engineering Engine Overhaul Department employees were on tooldown/work stoppage on the 3rd September, 1991;

(b) if so, the number of employees that participated in the tooldown/work stoppage and what were their demands; and

(c) whether the management has denied the press reports to this effect in "The Times of India" dated 4th September, 1991 titled "Tool down strike byy Air India Technicians" ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Air India Management has not issued any denial.

Accommodation to Air India Employees at Bombay

811. SHRI E. BALANANDAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of employees of Air India who have been provided accommodation by Air India at Bombay;

(b) whether all these employees are being paid HRA; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) A total of 912 employees have been provided housing accommodation at Bombay.

(b) No, Sir. House rent allowance is being paid to only 12 employees who have been provided accommodation at Shanti Kunj building, Khar which is with Air India on lease basis as the landlord was not willing to rent out uats directly to the employees. Since the expenses on maintenance, water etc. are borne by the resi-

dent employees of Air India, they are allowed the benefit of house rent allowance.

(c) Employees who are provided with housing accommodation by Air India are not eligible for house rent allowance.

Accident leave to Employees of Air India

812. SHRI E. BALANANDAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India grants accident leave to its employees; and

(b) if so, what is the criteria and the competent authority to grant such leave ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Yes Sir. In Air India, it is known as Disability leave.

(b) The criteria for grant of disability leave are :—

An employee who is injured in and during the course of his employment, or who contracts any of the occupational diseases enumerated in schedule III to the Workmen's Compensation Act, and is thereby temporarily disabled may, on production of a medical certificate acceptable to the competent authority, be granted disability leave. Such leave may also be granted in the event of an injury sustained by an employee while actually participating in any sporting event as a representative of the corporation.

The competent authority to grant such leave is the concerned Department|Divisional|Sectional head.

Strike by Air India Flight Engineers

813. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the flight engineers of Air India have gone on a strike, recently;

(b) if so, what are the demands of the engineers are the losses suffered by Air India due to strike;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government had imposed a ban on strikes by Air flight engineers, after 39 days of their strike;

(d) whether Government have decided to refer the issues involved to a National Industrial Tribunal;

(e) if so, what were the issues to be referred to the Tribunal; and

(f) what is the reaction of the Air India engineers to ban the strike and what action is proposed to be taken by Government to avert frequent strikes ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) The strike by the Flight Engineers of Air India was called off on 23rd April, 1993.

(b) The main demands were :—

(i) The Flight Engineer should be given three stripes on uniform and a full wing equal to that of First Officer.

(ii) There should be a second Flight Engineer on long-haul flights that are operated with an additional Commander.

(iii) Air India should introduce the concept of integrated cockpit crew and towards this end, provide training in line with the practice followed by other international carriers. The management should agree on compensation for the enlarged role of the Flight Engineers.

(c) Government had prohibited continuance of the strike.

(d) Yes, Sir.